## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

ONLY

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Mh1t AND/OR COMMON	te Haven			
Gran	nt-Dent House			
LOCATION				
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	od Village <u>X</u>	VICINITY OF	Richard A Gephardt	
STATE Missouri	63123	CODE 29	St. Louis	соре 139
CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	_MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	_UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	80ТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	_SCIENTIFIC
		YES: UNRESTRICTED _XNO	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATIO
STREET & NUMBER	S. Wenzlick Estate			
CITY, TOWN	rcenaven prive		STATE.	
Grantwoo	od Village <u>x</u>	VICINITY OF	Missouri	
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION		
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS,I	Recorder of Deeds	, St. Louis Cour	ity Government Cente	γ•
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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

### WHITE HAVEN

CON	ITINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	6	PAGE ]	·
2.	Historic Sites Inventory for the 1976 East-West Gateway Coordinating Conth Fourth Street St. Louis, Missouri 63102		ropo	<u>litan Area</u>	local
3.	Historic American Buildings Surv (Mo - 1150) Library of Congress Washington, D.C.	<u>/ey</u>			federal
4.	Old St. Louis Homes 1964 published: St. Louis: The Folk	kstone Press			local
5.	Missouri Historic Sites Catalogu 1963 published: State Historical Soc corner, Hitt and Low Columbia, Missouri	— ciety of Missou vry Streets	ri		ŝtate
6.	Advisory List to the National Re 1969 (1970) United States Department of the National Park Service Washington, D.C.		oric	<u>Places</u>	federal
7.	Volume I, Survey of Missouri's O Historic Preservation Plan 1971 State Historical Survey and Plan now Department of Natural Resour P. O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101	nning Office	tate	wide Preliminary	s ta te
8.	Missouri's Contribution to Ameri 1923 published: St. Louis	can Architectu	<u>re</u>		state
9.	Missouri State Historic Survey 1979 Department of Natural Resources P. O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102				state



#### CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED

\_\_UNALTERED

CHECK ONE

\_\_GOOD \_\_FAIR

\_\_EXCELLENT

\_\_RUINS
\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_XALTERED

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

White Haven is an estate of 9.85 acres located at 9060 Whitehaven Drive. It is in an unincorporated portion of St. Louis County but is bounded on two sides by Grantwood Village. Buildings on the property include five buildings of historic interest: The main house, the former slave quarters, now a garage, a shed, a smokehouse, and a barn. There is also a caretaker's cottage dating from the twentieth century.

The main house consists of a two-story rectangular section placed at an angle to the cardinal points, with the long axis running northeast-southwest. This section has a two-story porch across the southeast (nominal south) front. Against the southwest (nominal west) end is a one-story wing. A breezeway extends from the northwest (nominal north) side of the house to connect with the garage/slave quarters.

#### **EXTERIOR**

The two-story section of the house measures 36 feet by 20 feet, with a seven foot wide two-story porch along the nominal south front. The nominal west wing measures 21 feet 2 inches by 28 feet 2 inches. One-story additions have been built along the nominal north side of the house in an irregular pattern, including a glazed breezeway extending the nominal east side of the house 29 feet north to the garage/slave quarters. All parts of the house are covered with white-painted clapboards, with black shutters and limestone chimneys. Foundations of the west wing are partially exposed concrete-covered rubble stone. The roofs are covered with black shingles.

### Windows

With the exception of the breezeway, all the windows in the house are based on the pattern of the double-hung twelve-over-eight originals. The south front of the main block is symmetrical in five bays with centered doors on both levels. The east elevation has two windows on the ground floor flanking the central chimney. These windows were added in 1940.\frac1 The west wing has one window roughly centered in the south front and one to the right of the central chimney on the west end, and one to the left, placed slightly lower on the wall. The north, which has been most altered, retains a roughly symmetrical arrangement in five bays on the upper level. The second and fourth of the five windows were added in 1940. The original ground floor facade remains in part behind the irregular one-story extensions. Unlike the floor above, it has two windows left of the central bay, and a blank fourth bay, and a door in the fifth bay. The window in the first bay was converted from a door in 1940, while the door in the fifth bay was originally a window. The north front of the west wing has three windows, the center of which replaces a door removed in 1940.

#### Doorways

The main door of the porch is set between three-pane side lights and is topped by a six-pane transom window. The door itself consists of one large panel surrounded

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by decorative moldings. The porch door above it and the center door on the north front, as well as most interior doors, are the familiar six-panel "cross and book" type. An entrance to the basement level of the west wing is located on the south corner of the west side and is approached by a short stairway covered with a lean-to glass door.

### Chimneys

There are three chimneys, one in each end of the two-story section and one at the west end of the west wing. They are made of limestone rubble with ashlar quoins. The two taller ones are set slightly back (to the north) of the roof ridge-line.

### Roof

The roofs of the main house, west wing and breezeway are basic gable types. The north additions have shed roofs. The attic has six-over-six light double-hung windows in the east and west ends and two dormers facing south. These dormers were added after 1913 roughly centered over the second and fourth bays of the facade. A third dormer centered in the north side of the roof was added after 1913 but removed in 1940.

### Decorative details

Cornices, bargeboards, window and door frames, and other moldings are all of the simplest wooden type. The south porch has six squared columns on the ground level, each with applied battens in imitation of fluting. The upper level, by contrast, has seven plain posts, of which only the end ones align with the columns below. The upper level also has a plain wooden balustrade with squared balusters.

#### INTERIOR

### Basement

There are four rooms. One is to the east of the stairway, under the living room, which was excavated after 1940. Another is west of the stairway, directly under the dining room, and is used as a furnace and utility room. Directly to the west of the furnace room, under the west wing is a room used as a study. Adjoining the study to the north, under the first floor dressing room is another room excavated after 1940 and used as a bedroom with an adjoining bathroom.

The basement study served as the kitchen throughout most of the 19th century, as suggested by the large open stone-faced fireplace near the center of the west

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wall of the present study. The food was brought outdoors through the door in the southwest corner of the basement and taken to the present northwest dressing room of the first floor, which at that time served as a pantry and serving area. The walls of this portion of the basement remain the original stone rubble. The original bark-covered log beams support the original first-floor planking in the furnace room and study, and are visible as part of the basement ceiling. All of the basement floors have been concreted. The fireplace has its original brickwork hearth. The ceiling height is consistent throughout, at a level of seven or eight feet. The floor is also of the same level throughout, with the exception of a one-step landing at the foot of the stairway.

### First Floor

The two main entrances open into a hallway from both the north breezeway and the south porch. The hallway is 19 feet 6 inches long, as are the living room which adjoins it to the east and the dining room which adjoins it to the west. These three rooms are a part of the frame house which was constructed by William L. Long in 1808. The master bedroom which adjoins the dining room to the west and the additional dressing room which adjoins the master bedroom to the north are a part of the original log structure constructed by William L. Long in the period 1796 to 1800. The kitchen and breakfast room, which adjoin the dining room to the north were constructed in 1940 and later.

All of the floors are duplicates of the original wood planks which were joined by the tongue and groove method. The original planks still remain under the present flooring.

All of the ceilings are constructed of plaster and lath and were replastered in the 1940s. They are the original eight and a half feet in height, except for the living room ceiling, which has been dropped about one foot to conceal the plumbing. The molding around the ceilings is original in part. Living room, dining room and master bedroom have wainscotting thirty inches in height. Corner posts protrude a few inches into the rooms. Most of the millwork around the windows and doors is original.

The fireplaces are centered on end walls. They were bricked up during the 1850s to accommodate Franklin stoves and were reopened by the Wenzlick family before 1916.2 All of the fireplaces contain the original hearths and the mantels are either original or copies of the originals. The three first floor fireplaces all contain black painted metal hoods to reduce the size of their openings.

The hallway may not have existed in the first half of the 19th century, but rather the dining room opened immediately into the living room. The entrances and stair-

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way would have opened directly into the dining room.

The staircase is located at the northwest corner of the hall. It faces north, away from the main entrance, and starts with a square landing step that may be approached either from the hallway or through a door from the dining room. The stairs are steep (9-inch risers vs. 8-inch treads) and preserve their original treads. The north doorway is located between the stairway and the wall of the living room. Under the main staircase is a stairs descending to the basement. It was added after 1940 but utilizes the original door (facing the south front door) that originally opened into a closet. Until the installation of this door, the only access to the basement was by way of the outside door in the west wing.

The living room was originally a guest room, and is traditionally the room in which Ulysses S. Grant proposed to Julia Dent. It contains a fireplace near the center of the east wall.

The dining room was probably the parlor before becoming the dining room in the late 19th century. It has a fireplace in the center of the west wall. The door leading to the stairway entrance in the northeast corner of the room has an old lock and latch moved there from the south front door.

The master bedroom served as the dining room when the kitchen was located directly below it. It is almost square. The log walls have been plastered over. There is a fireplace in the center of the west wall. The floor is 6 to 8 inches above the other floors. The adjoining dressing room, as previously mentioned, was used as a pantry and serving area.

### Second floor

The stairway leads into a hallway on the second floor directly above the first floor hallway. There is a door on the south end of this hallway which leads to the south porch. East and west doors are aligned with one another leading into the upstairs bedrooms.

The east bedroom was originally one room, but now includes an adjoining bathroom which was divided from the north side of the room in the 1940s. It was thought that during the Civil War grain stored in this room caused the floor to sag 4 or 5 inches. This was repaired by placing new flooring, patterned after the original, over the sagging flooring in the 1940s. The fireplace at the center of the east wall is smaller than those on the first floor and lacks a hood, but the hearth is original. A small closet was installed in the corner some time after 1900.

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The west bedroom is directly across the hallway from the east bedroom and is approximately of the same dimensions. The closet at the southwest corner protrudes into the hallway. Another small fireplace without a hood is in the middle of the west wall.

### Attic

Another steep and narrow stairway leads to the attic. This stairway also contains the original treads, and leads to a door opening into the attic from the north side. The attic spans the area over the 1808 frame portion of the house and still contains the original tongue and groove flooring. The rafter beams are joined in mortise and tenon fashion and are joined together by the original carved wooden pegs. The outside sheeting is also still the original. Battens have been added to support the roof. The attic is presently used as a storage area, but may have contained additional bedrooms in the 19th century.

#### **ALTERATIONS**

Major alterations have been referred to above, most of which took place in 1940 at the time of the HABS survey. At that time the owner acquired an elaborate machine shop to reproduce needed wooden parts (replacements and additions) as faithfully to the originals as possible. At this time also plumbing was introduced.

A small frame structure on the site of the present breezeway and said to have been built about 1818 by Theodore Hunt as an office was demolished.3

Subsequent alterations include excavation of the basement space under the living room and expansion of the kitchen and breakfast room about four feet northward.

#### CONDITION

White Haven is in excellent condition overall. The only feature requiring repair of any kind is the upper level porch floor.

#### SITE

White Haven is in a heavily wooded suburban residential neighborhood. Its historical access to the Gravois Creek and Grant Road has been interrupted since the 1870's by the infrequently used Carondelet and Kirkwood Branch of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, but an easily traversable crossing remains. Three trees on the heavily wooded site are said to have been gifts to ex-President and Mrs. Grant on their round-the-world tour 1877-79: The ginko northeast of the house

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from Japan and two lindens south of the house from Germany.4

Of the five outbuildings on the property, one, the caretaker's cottage, was originally built as a two-story structure after 1913 and was remodeled as a one-story structure following a fire in the late 1930's. It is a white clapboard structure with black shutters and detailing similar to the main house.

At right angles to the north side of the main house and now connected to it by the breezeway, is a one-story stone structure measuring about 38 feet by 14 feet. It was originally a two-room dwelling for slaves assigned to the house and it has massive fireplaces in each end. By the late 19th century, it had fallen into ruin and the west wall had entirely collapsed. It was repaired for use as a shed after 1928 and then converted into its present use as a garage in 1940, with the garage doors replacing the fallen wall. It has a gable roof. Extending east and at right angles to the garage (parallel to the main house) is a frame, gable-roofed workshop. It is entered up several steps from the level of the garage and is three bays long (about 42 feet in all) and two bays wide. It dates from the remodeling.

North of the house and across the drive sit two barn-red painted wooden structures on the edge of a steep incline. The eastern one is a simple rectangular, gable-roofed, board-and-batten shed measuring about 14 feet by 15 feet. The other has a stone lower level built into the side of the hill. The wooden end of it's gable roof accomodates a door at the level of the drive. A small square wooden cupola stands in the center of the roof edge and indicates the building's apparent function as a smokehouse. The interior space measures about thirteen feet by twenty feet.

The largest outbuilding is a large (55' x 100') red barn at the low end of the property nearest the railroad tracks. It was originally located a few hundred yards southeast of its present site, at what is now the cul-de-sac of Fernald Drive, and was moved in the 1960's. At that time, it was given a new concrete foundation and floor and was recovered with wooden strips over plywood sheeting to simulate its original board and batten construction. It was originally built in the early 1870's by Ulysses Grant's employees as a stable for his thoroughbred horses. Although the stalls have been removed, the interior is still largely original, with the exception of an apartment built into one corner. It is constructed in wide bays, about 16 feet square, of oak posts and beams mortised and pinned with oak pegs, a building technique similar to that found in the attic of the main house.

#### PRESENT STATUS

White Haven is presently a private residence. The recent death of the longtime

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owner and occupant opens the possibility of further subdivision or other alteration for reuse.

#### **FOOTNOTES**

- Information and copies of photos taken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1940 generously provided by Delbert Wenzlick and family.
- 2. St. Louis Missouri Globe Democrat, "Scenes of Grant's Courtship,"
  December 3, 1916; Lloyd Lewis, Captain Sam Grant (Boston: Little, Brown, 1950) p. 339.
- 3. Globe Democrat, "Scenes"; Ishbel Ross, The General's Wife (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1959), p. 9.
- 4. According to the Wenzlick Family.
- 5. Globe Democrat, "Scenes"; St. Louis Missouri Globe Democrat Magazine, November 4, 1928.
- 6. <u>Globe Democrat</u>, "Scenes"; <u>St. Louis</u> <u>Missouri</u> <u>Globe Democrat</u>, "Where Grant Courted Julie Dent," August 13, 1899.

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
—PREHISTORIC —.1400-1499 —.1500-1599 —.1600-1699 —.1700-1799 —.X1800-1899 —.1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  AGRICULTURE  XARCHITECTURE  ART  COMMERCE  COMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE _LAW _LITERATURE _MILITARY _MUSIC _PHILOSOPHY X_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE XSOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES built c.1795 & 1808

BUILDER/ARCHITECT William Lindsay Long

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

White Haven is a property of slightly less than ten acres located in an unincorporated part of St. Louis County. It has an address at 9060 White-haven Drive and a secondary entrance on Grant Road. Structures on the property include the main house, former slave quarters, spring house and shed, and barn and a caretaker's house. In its heyday before the Civil War this property was the center of a farm or plantation consisting of four hundred to a thousand acres. The home was occupied successively by three families prominent in local history, the Longs, the Hunts and the Dents. Julia Dent became Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, and White Haven has its primary significance through its important associations over a period of many years with the eighteenth president of the United States.

### Early History

In 1796, a certain Hugh Graham obtained a tract of land of eight hundred arpents (789.66 acres) on the Gravois Creek from the Spanish administration. On September 6, 1799, he acknowledged before Daniel Boone, Commandant of the District of Femme Osage, that he had deeded this property to Jacques Mackay in exchange for land on the Missouri River. Jacques Mackay was James Mackay (1759-1821 or 23), a Scotsman who had come to Missouri as early as 1795 and who had acted as deputy to the Spanish commandant, Zenon Trudeau. His grant was confirmed by the U.S. Board of Commissioners for the Louisiana Territory on December 12, 1808, as Survey 9, Township 44 North Range 6 East. By that date he had already sold a portion of the tract which straddled the creek to his brother-in-law, William L. Long.

The present west wing of the house built in the French vertical log fashion, must have been constructed prior to 1800, possibly to signify that the land was occupied. It may, however, have been built at a much earlier date, perhaps by an unknown French trapper as a way station along the Royal Road, now Gravois Road. In any case, it ranks as one of the oldest known buildings in the metropolitan area.

### William Lindsay Long

Captain John Long, a native of Virginia, was probably living in Philadelphia, the home port of his ship the "Dolphin," when his son, William Lindsay Long was born in 1789. In 1794, the family moved to Kentucky and from there in

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late 1796, to the Bonhomme district in northwestern St. Louis County. <sup>4</sup> In 1807 the family moved to the vicinity of James Mackay's land grant, and the following year William Lindsay Long married Elizabeth Sappington.

Elizabeth was one of the seventeen children of John Sappington, a Revolutionary War veteran who owned a Spanish grant just northwest of that of James Mackay. (The house of Thomas Sappington, elder brother of Elizabeth, is still standing on the original Sappington grant and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.) It was probably for her that William Lindsay Long built White Haven, using slave labor. Most of Long's eleven children were born at White Haven during their ten year residence there, including the second son, John Fenton Long (1816-1888). John Fenton Long became a trusted friend of U. S. Grant, and was the executor for the White Haven estate during Grant's presidency.

William L. Long was appointed Ensign in the 4th Company of the 1st Battalion of the 1st Regiment of the Missouri Infantry in December 1811, shortly before the outbreak of the War of 1812; he was recommissioned in 1813. His commander was Alexander McNair, Missouri's first governor. Two of his wife's brothers were also officers in the 4th Company.

In 1818, Long sold White Haven and moved to Fenton, Missouri, a town which he laid out on land bought from Antoine Soulard (another prominent pioneer St. Lousian) and which he named for a Welsh ancestor. Fenton still exists, and is located on the south side of the Meramec River at the far end of Gravois Road, about four miles southwest of White Haven. Its low-lying position in relation to the river and its distance from the better-developed trade routes of the area inhibited its growth until well into the twentieth century. Unsuccessful as a city father, Long moved back to the Gravois Creek area in 1820 and built his third house which is still standing and was recently nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. He remained here as a slave-owning farmer until the cholera epidemic of 1849 claimed him and his wife within the space of a week. 8

### Theodore Hunt and Anne Lucas Hunt

On January 28, 1818, Ann.e Lucas Hunt wrote in a letter: "Mr. Hunt has bought William Long's farm on the Gravois to which we intend to move the first of April." Theodore Hunt had come to St. Louis because of the fur

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trade, but he had stayed because of Anne Lucas, and he was moving to this farm twelve miles from downtown because of her. He was born between 1778 and 1780 in Trenton New Jersey, where his father, Abraham Hunt, was a prominent merchant. O In 1798 he entered the U.S. Navy as a midshipman, eventually attaining the rank of captain. In 1803 he was aboard the "Philadelphia" when she ran aground in the harbor of Tripoli; and, as a result, he was captured and held prisoner until June 1805 when America's undeclared war with Tripoli ended. He continued to serve in the Navy until 1811.

In 1808, while on leave from the Navy, he led a commercial voyage to Calcutta, and in 1812, he made a similar trip to Canton for John Jacob Astor. In 1813 he came to St. Louis, "widely traveled, urbane, and well educated."Il Due to his association with the Astor Fur Company, he may have had business here with his cousin Wilson Price Hunt (1783 - 1842) who had just returned from a four-year expedition to Oregon on Astor's behalf. On June 23, 1814, Theodore Hunt married Anne Lucas (born 1796), only daughter of Jean Baptiste Charles Lucas (1758-1842).

The elder Lucas had come to St. Louis from Normandy by way of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He had represented Pennsylvania in the United States Congress from 1803. In 1805 he was appointed by President Jefferson to the Board of Commissioners for the Louisiana Territory and Judge for the Territory. He moved his family by flatboat to St. Louis that same year. He established a thriving legal practice in St. Louis, but he is most famous for his real estate acumen. He acquired, at modest prices, old farms that later became the heart of the central business district. 12

In September of 1817, the second of five Lucas sons, Charles (b.1792) was shot to death in a duel by Thomas Hart Benton! This event so affected his sister, (Mrs. Theodore Hunt) that she "made her father change her place of residence ... for fear she might chance to encounter Col. Benton in some of her walks." Thus the Hunts arrived at White Haven early in 1818. They remained at White Haven until 1820 when they moved to the large Lucas estates located northwest of St. Louis known as "Normandy" in honor of the family's French origin.

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Hunt continued to engage in a variety of business activities including a tanyard and a store. In 1824 he was made Recorder of Land Titles in Missouri, a position he held with distinction until early in Jackson's administration. He died in 1832, leaving three minor children.

Anne Lucas subsequently married her first husband's illustrious cousin, Wilson Price Hunt, and after his death devoted herself to the administration of her estates and those of her father, which she shared with her only suriving brother, James. She also became a philanthropist on a grand scale, donating nearly a million dollars to religious and humanitarian purposes, the main recipients being Catholic institutions. In the four years before her death in 1879, she distributed much of her own estate. She is buried in Calvary Cemetery in a Gothic chapel where she is portrayed in a carving over the door with both her Hunt husbands.

Of all the Lucas and Hunt family houses in St. Louis City and County, White Haven is the only known surviver.

### Frederick Dent

The next owner of White Haven was born in Maryland in 1787, the descendant of a family which had settled in that state before 1660. By the early 18th century, the Dents had acquired numerous "plantations" in Charles and Prince George's Counties, including Whitehaven at Mattawoman, the namesake of Frederick Dent's Missouri farm. 16 Actually, he considered this country place to be his summer home, as he already had a house in town, from which he oversaw his law and business interests. He insisted on running his farm with slaves even though such a system was not profitable in Missouri, where it was in competition with free hired labor. 17 Nevertheless, he enlarged his holdings by nearly three quarters of a section, bringing his total acreage up to somewhere between 600 and 1000 acres. He enjoyed the courtesy title of Colonel.

Like his predecessors at White Haven, Dent came to Missouri by stages. Sometime before 1814, he settled in Pittsburgh, where he married Ellen Bray Wrenshall, and there the first of their eight children (John), was born in 1816. The Dents came to St. Louis in 1818 where

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

WHITE HAVEN

CONTINUATION SHEET White Haven ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

Frederick Tracy Dent was born in 1820, Lewis in 1823, and Julia in 1826. The last of their children were born at White Haven; Ellen in 1828, Mary in 1830 and Emily in 1836. Colonel Dent "loved to sit on the front porch in a rocking chair, smoking a long pipe and quoting the  $\underline{\text{St. Louis}}$  Republican on politics." On the other hand Julia Dent recalled that her mother "hated the country and this place especially."  $\underline{\text{In the polyment}}$ 

### <u>Ulysses S. Grant</u>

Frederick T. Dent graduated from West Point in 1843. One of his class-mates there was Ulysses Hiram Grant, mistakenly registered as Ulysses Simpson Grant, called "Sam" by his friends. 20 Both men were first assigned to Jefferson Barracks, less than five miles from White Haven, and Grant was soon introduced to his friend's family, except for eldest daughter Julia, who was living in town with Colonel and Mrs. John O'Fallon, when Grant arrived. 21

Within a few months, however, the two young people met, and although Grant was reassigned to Louisiana in 1844, he returned to St. Louis to ask for Julia's hand in 1845 shortly before joining General Zachary Taylor in Texas. On August 22, 1848, during a two-month leave of absence at the conclusion of the Mexican War, Grant married Julia at the Dent townhouse at 4th and Cerre. 22

For the next six years the couple saw little of St. Louis as they moved to a number of military posts from New York to California. Julia did return to White Haven for the birth of the first of her four children, Frederick Dent Grant, May 30, 1850. Then, in the summer of 1854, Grant resigned from the army and settled down with his in-laws at White Haven. The next years have been called ones of "privation, menial pursuits, ignominy, limited prospects, and despondence."<sup>23</sup> At first he and Julia lived in the main house while Grant cleared the 80 to 100 acres about a mile to the north that Colonial Dent had given his daughter. By July of 1855, however, they were living in Wish-ton-Wish, the cottage belonging to Julia's brotner, Louis, located about a half mile south of the main house. <sup>24</sup>

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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In September of 1856 his family finally moved into their own house, a log house which he had built himself and named Hardscrabble. Julia's mother died the following January, and the Grants moved back to White Haven. Colonel Dent decided to move to his town house in the spring of 1858, so Grant leased Hardscratble to another farmer and farmed Dent's 200 plowed acres. The 1857 crop had been poor, and Grant's fortunes were further adversely affected by the nationwide depression of these years and the severe freeze that occured on June 5, 1858. Later that summer young Frederick contracted typhoid, the slaves became ill and Grant himself contracted an "ague" which afflicted him alternately with chills and fever (malaria?). By the fall of the year he had to give up farming, and began to auction horses and implements and to rent the fields. In January, 1859, he began to work in town with a Dent cousin, Harry Boggs; he walked back and forth every weekend until March when Julia joined him. After a series of unsuccessful ventures, including a stab at politics, Grant finally admitted defeat, and in April of 1860 moved to Galena, Illinois.

Although Grant never again lived in St. Louis, he visited often, and for a time planned to return to White Haven. In 1866 he began to purchase various parts of the Dent property, which had been divided among other members of the family. He completed this consolidation in 1873, at the beginning of his second term as President. Colonel Dent died that year at the age of 87, while a guest in the White House. During this period, Grant built a barn that is still standing to house blooded horses, and surviving correspondence testifies to his continued interest in the property. The plan to return to the area was aborted, however, after the emergence of the Whiskey Ring scandal in 1874. That scheme to defraud the government was centered in St. Louis and as Grant himself was implicated, St. Louis was ruined as a place for retirement. In spite of this, the Grants retained their affection for White Haven. Specimen trees given them during their post-presidential world tour were sent back to White Haven, where a ginko from Japan and two lindens from Germany may still be seen.

The Grants settled in New York after his failure to win renomination to the Presidency in 1880. His business venture there, the firm of Grant and Ward, collapsed on May 6, 1884. Two days previously he had received a personal loan of \$150,000.00 from William Henry Vanderbilt, which he had turned over to his partner in the business. This money was never

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CONTINUATION SHEET

recovered. Grant insisted on repaying this debt even though Vanderbilt offered a number of alternatives, and he ultimately turned over to him all of his and his wife's real property (with the exception of the New York house) as well as a great deal of memorabilia. White Haven was valued at \$60,000.00 in this transaction. A little more than a year later, on July 23, 1885, Grant died.

White Haven was associated with Ulysses S. Grant more intimately and over a longer period of time than any other house, including his house in Galena, Illinois, which is now a National Historic Landmark. Although he suffered from hard times at White Haven, it continued to represent to him his love for his wife Julia, which for both of them remained the most important constant in their lives.

### Later Owners

Grant signed a mortgage on 646 acres of the White Haven farm to William Henry Vanderbilt on May 17, 1884. The following April 15, General and Mrs. Grant signed a quit-claim for this property over to William J. Van Arsdale, Vanderbilt's agent. In 1888 this property was sold to Luther H. Conn, a bachelor real estate agent in St. Louis. Conn used the place as a summer house which he called "Grant Wood." He entertained General Frederick Dent Grant there in 1903. 30 The same year he sold the southwestern 217 acres to Adolphus Busch, who used them to establish an elaborate estate which he called "Grant's Farm." 31 Eventually after many vicissitudes, the Hardscrabble log house was moved to the Busch estate, thereby contributing to the confusion as to the historic identity of the two properties. In 1905 Conn sold the fifteen acres surrounding his country house to a development company, which planned to build an an amusement park there, capitalizing on the associations of the place and its location immediately adjacent to the station of the Carondelet and Kirkwood Branch of the Missouri Pacific Railroad. 32 White Haven was saved from this fate by Albert Wenzlick, another St. Louis realtor, who purchased the property in 1913 along with 105 adjacent acres. Like Conn before him, Wenzlick used the main house during the summer and entertained visiting antiquarians there. He also continued the process of subdivision which resulted in the eventual reduction of the property to its present 9.85 acres. Albert Wenzlick died in 1937, and in 1940 his son Delbert decided to make White Haven his permanent home. He had the house and

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

### WHITE HAVEN

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adjacent buildings recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey and then proceeded to make careful repairs and alterations as described by Section 7 above. Delbert Wenzlick died January 12, 1979

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." White Haven is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture," "Exploration/Settlement," "Politics/Government," and "Social/Humanitarian."

### **FOOTNOTES**

- 1. Information provided by Delbert Wenzlick from a report prepared by Lawyers Title Company of Missouri, with reference to Book B, page 434, St. Louis Recorder of Deeds; Minutes of Board, Vol. 3, page 393; American State Papers, Vol. 2, page 563; Archive 1113, Vol. 4, page 41, recorded July 16, 1847.
- 2. Thomas Scharf, <u>History of St. Louis City and County</u>, Vol. II (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts and Co., 1883), p. 1880; Louis Houck, <u>A History of Missouri</u>, Vo. II (Chicago: R. R. Donnelley, 1908), p. 70.
- 3. A typical example of this type of construction is the Church of the Holy Family in Cahokia, Illinois, a National Historic Landmark.
- 4. Scharf, Vol. I, p. 579.
- 5. The United States Biographical Dictionary, Missouri Volume (New York: United States Biographical Publishing Company, 1978), pp. 98-99.
- 6. Long Collection, Missouri Historical Society.
- 7. Also described in Historic American Buildings Survey, No 1186.
- 8. Scharf, Vol. I, p. 580.
- 9. Lucas Collection, Missouri Historical Society, Letter 1-28-1818.

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- 10. Biographies of Theodore Hunt are found in Frederick L. Billon, Annals of St. Louis, Vol. II (St. Louis: the author, 1888), p. 260; Howard L. Conard, ed., Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri, Vol. III (New York, Louisville and St. Louis: The Southern History Co., 1901), pp. 327-328.
- 11. Missouri Historical Society, <u>The Bulletin</u>, Vol. IV, No. 4 (July 1948), pp. 272-273.
- 12. Houck, Vol. III, p. 41; Scharf, Vol. II, p. 1024; and Billon, Vol. II, pp. 213-215. His city property extended from Market Street on the south to St. Charles Street on the north, a distance of five blocks, and from Fourth Street on the east to Jefferson Avenue on the west, a distance of twenty-five blocks.
- 13. Billon, Vol. II, pp. 215-216; Houck, Vol. III, pp. 77-79; Scharf, Vol. II, pp. 1849-1853.
- 14. Scharf, Vol. I, p. 341.
- 15. Conard, Vol. IV. pp. 131-132; Scharf, Vol. II, p. 1413; <u>St. Louis</u> Missouri Globe Democrat, "The Lucases-Hunts," September 5, 1934.
- 16. Gustave Anjou, The Grant-Dent Family (No publisher, no date), unpaged. Bound volume of circa 1906 in the Missouri Historical Society.
- 17. Lloyd Lewis, Captain Sam Grant (Boston: Little, Brown, 1950), pp. 105, 121. According to Lewis, Dent had eighteen slaves, including 6 men, 5 women, and 7 children, as opposed to numbers of up to 80 sometimes cited. This book is the most detailed concerning Grant's St. Louis period among the many biographies of Grant.
- 18. Lewis, pp. 103-105; Billon, Vol. II, pp. 301-302; Conard, Vol. II, p. 263; Anjou.
- 19. Lewis, p. 103; Julia Dent Grant, The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1975), p. 43.
- 20. Robert G. Ferris, ed., <u>The Presidents</u> (Washington, D. C.: United States Department of the Interior, 1976), p. 171.

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- 21. Lewis, p. 106. The Grant-era buildings of Jefferson Barracks are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Col. John O'Fallon (1791-1865) was the nephew of explorer William Clark and one of the most prominent St. Louisans of his day. His wife, the former Caroline Schuts, was a Maryland cousin of Col. Dent.
- 22. Julia Grant, pp. 50-51; Lewis, p. 283. The Dent townhouse was recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey (Mo-31-2) but has since been demolished.
- 23. Ferris, p. 172. Details of this period are found in Julia Grant, pp. 75-80; Lewis, pp. 339-363. Also, Ishbel Ross, The General's Wife (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1959), pp. 77-95; Lawrence A. Frost, U. S. Grant Album (Seattle: Superior Publishing Company, 1966), pp. 51-52.
- 24. Wish-ton-Wish accidentally burned in the early 1870's. According to Anjou, Ellen ("Nellie") Grant was born in this house (July 4, 1855) rather than in White Haven itself, while the youngest Grant, Jesse, was born (February 6, 1858) in the St. Louis townhouse.
- 25. See footnote 1.
- For example, see Walter Barlow Stevens, <u>Grant in St. Louis</u> (St. Louis: The Franklin Club, 1916). Also Suzanne Triboulet, "St. Louis' Famous Log Cabin," <u>St. Louis</u> Missouri <u>Globe Democrat</u>, April 27, 1952.
- 27. Ross, p. 243.
- 28. Related by Delbert Wenzlick.
- 29. Richard Goldhurst, <u>The Agony and the Triumph of Ulysses S. Grant</u> (New York: Reader's Digest Press, 1975), pp. 3, 22-24. Correspondence between Grant and Vanderbilt was published in the <u>New York Tribune</u>, January 12, 1885.
- 30. St. Louis [Missouri] Globe Democrat, "Where Grant Courted Julia Dent," August 13, 1899; unidentified clipping in Missouri Historical Society.

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WHITE HAVEN

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- 31. St. Louis [Missouri] Globe Democrat, "Scenes of Grant's Courtship," December 3, 1916.
- 32. Neva Adams Wasson, The Crestwood Story (Crestwood Area American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, no date), p. 11.
- 33. St. Louis [Missouri] Globe Democrat, "Delbert S. Wenzlick rites held," January 16, 1979.

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

. Anjou, Gustave. The Grant-Dent Family. no publ	isher, no date circa 1906 .
. Billon, Frederick L. <u>Annals of St. Louis</u> . St.	Louis: the author, 1888.
Conard, Howard L., ed. Encyclopedia of the Hist ville and St. Louis: The Southern History Co	ory of Missouri. New York, Louis-
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point cific Railroad right-of-way and 140' southwest of 1-de-sac colinear to the west boundary of Fernald	the apex of the Fernald Drive
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLA	PING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE CODE COUNTY	CODE
Missouri 29	St. Louis 189
STATE CODE COUNTY	CODE
FORM PREPARED BY  NAME / TITLE  1. Esley Hamilton	
name/fitte 1. Esley Hamilton organization	DATE Lion January 18, 1979
NAME/TITLE  1. Esley Hamilton ORGANIZATION  St. Louis County Department of Parks & Recreat STREET & NUMBER	tion January 18, 1979
1. Esley Hamilton ORGANIZATION St. Louis County Department of Parks & Recreat STREET & NUMBER 1723 Mason Road	ion January 18, 1979 TELEPHONE (314) 822-8475
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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

- 4. Ferris, Robert G. <u>The Presidents</u>. Washington, D. C.: U. S. Department of the Interior, 1976.
- 5. Frost, Lawrence A. U. S. Grant Album. Seattle: Superior Publishing Company, 1966.
- 6. Grant, Julia Dent. <u>The Personel Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant</u>. New York: G. .P. Putnam's Sons, 1975.
- 7. Goldhurst, Richard. The Agony and the Triumph of Ulysses S. Grant. New York: Reader's Digest Press: 1975.
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- 11. 'Ross, Ishbel. The General's Wife. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1959.
- 12. St. Louis [Missouri] Globe Democrat. "The Lucases-Hunts," September 5, 1934.
- 13. \_\_\_\_\_\_. "Scenes of Grant's Courtship," December 3, 1916.
- 14. "Where Grant Courted Julia Dent," August 13, 1899.
- 15. Scharf, Thomas. <u>History of St. Louis City and County</u>. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts and Co., 1883.
- 16. Stevens, Walter Barlow. Grant in St. Louis. St. Louis: The Franklin Club, 1916.
- 17. Triboulet, Suzanne. "St. Louis' Famous Log Cabin," <u>St. Louis</u> [Missouri] <u>Globe</u> Democrat, April 27, 1952.
- 18. The United States Biographical Dictionary, Missouri Volume. New York: United States Biographical Publishing Company, 1878.
- 19. Wasson, Neva Adams. <u>The Crestwood Story</u>. Crestwood Area American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, no date circa 1976 .

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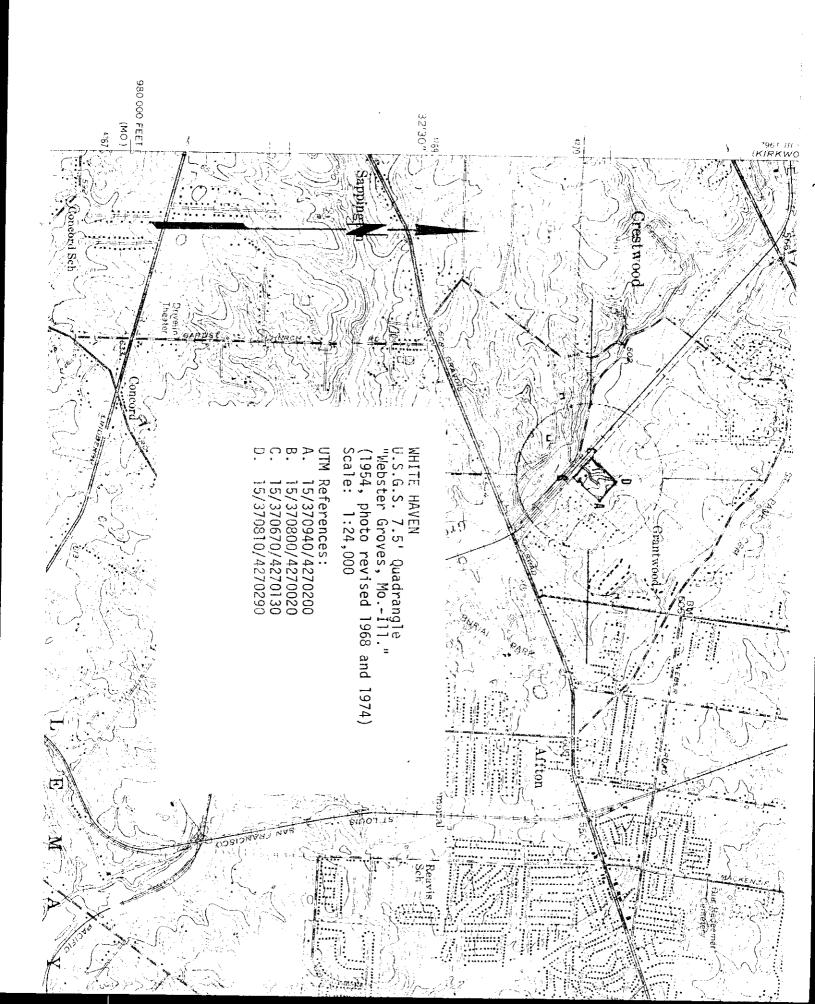
along the Missouri Pacific Railroad right-of-way. Then proceed northeast 225' to White Haven Drive just east of the bend in the drive and follow the east boundary of White Haven Drive northeast 470'. Then continue following the east boundary of White Haven Drive as the drive curves to the east 103'. Then proceed southeast about 470' in a line parallel to the Missouri Pacific Railroad right-of-way. Then proceed southwest 508' along the west boundary of Fernald Drive. Then proceed around the west boundary of the Fernald Drive cul-de-sac about 220' to its apex colinear to the west boundary of Fernald Drive. Then proceed 140' southwest in a direction colinear to the west boundary of Fernald Drive to the point of origin.

### ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

314/751-4096

Missouri 65102



### **National Historic Landmark Nomination**

## White Haven (Grant-Dent House) St. Louis County, Missouri

Entered as an NHL on June 23, 1986

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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received

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1. Nam	e			
historic White	Haven			
and/or common	Grant-Dent House			
2. Loca				
street & number	9060 Whitehaven Dr	rive	· <del>· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · </del>	not for publication
city, town	Grantwood Village	_X_ vicinity of	÷	
state	Missouri code	29 county	St. Louis	<b>code</b> 189
3. Clas	sification			
Category district X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process _X_ being considered	Status occupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Proper	ty		
name U. S. G	rant's White Haven,	Inc., a Missouri o	corporation	
	c/o 422 South Hanle			
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# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



P. O. Box 176

Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

WHITE HAVEN

Item number

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Page

2. Sites Inventory for the St. Louis Metropolitan Area local 1976 East-West Gateway Coordinating Council 112 North Fourth Street St. Louis, Missouri 63102 3. Historic American Buildings Survey federal (Mo. - 1150)Library of Congress Washington, D.C. local 4. Old St. Louis Homes 1964 published: St. Louis: The Folkstone Press 5. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue state 1963 published: State Historical Society of Missouri corner, Hitt and Lowry Streets Columbia, Missouri 65201 6. Advisory List to the National Register of Historic Places federal 1969 (1970) United States Department of the Interior National Park Service Washington, D.C. Volume I, Survey of Missouri's Comprehensive Statewide 7. state Preliminary Historic Preservation Plan 1971 State Historical Survey and Planning Office now Department of Natural Resources P. O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 8. Missouri's Contribution to American Architecture state  $\overline{1928}$ published: St. Louis 9. Missouri State Historic Survey state Department of Natural Resources

# 7. Description Condition Check one X excellent \_\_\_\_\_deteriorated \_\_\_\_\_unaltered \_\_\_\_\_X original site

good	ruins	_X_ altered	moved	date
fair	unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

White Haven is an estate of 9.65 acres located at 9060 Whitehaven Drive. It is in an unincorporated portion of St. Louis County but is bounded on two sides by the municipality of Grantwood Village. Buildings on the property include five buildings of historic interest: The main house, the former slave quarters, now a garage, a shed, a smokehouse, and a barn. There is also a caretaker's cottage dating from the twentieth century.

The main house was recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1940 (Survey No. Mo.-1150). It consists of a two-story rectangular section placed at an angle to the cardinal points, with the long axis running northeast-southwest. This section has a two-story porch across the southeast (nominal south) front. Against the southwest (nominal west) end is a one-story wing. A breezeway extends from the northwest (nominal north) side of the house to connect with the garage/slave quarters.

#### EXTERIOR

The two-story section of the house measures 36 feet by 30 feet, with a  $6\frac{1}{2}$ -foot-wide two-story porch along the nominal south front. The nominal west wing measures 21 feet 2 inches by 28 feet 5 inches. One-story additions have been built along the nominal north side of the house in an irregular pattern, including a glazed breezeway extending the nominal east side of the house 29 feet north to the garage/slave quarters. All parts of the house are covered with white-painted clapboards, accented by black shutters and limestone chimneys. Foundations of the west wing are partially exposed concrete-covered rubble stone. The roofs are covered with black shingles.

#### Windows

With the exception of the breezeway, all the windows in the house are based on the pattern of the double-hung twelve-over-eight originals. The south front of the main block is symmetrical in five bays with centered doors on both levels. The east elevation has two windows on the ground floor flanking the central chimney. These windows were added in 1940. The west wing has one window roughly centered in the south front; at the west end there is one window to the right of the central chimney and another to the left, placed slightly lower on the wall. The north elevation, which has been most altered, retains a roughly symmetrical arrangement in five bays on the upper level. The second and fourth of the five windows were added in 1940. The original ground floor facade remains in part behind the irregular one-story extensions. Unlike the floor above, it has two windows left of the central bay, a blank fourth bay, and a door in the fifth bay. The window in the first bay was converted from a door in 1940, while the door in the fifth bay was originally a window. The north front of the west wing has three windows, the center of which replaces a door removed in 1940.

### Doorways

The main door of the porch is set between three-pane side lights and is topped by a six-pane transom window. The door itself consists of one large panel surrounded

### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

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by decorative moldings. The porch door above it and the center door on the north front, as well as most interior doors, are the familiar six-panel "cross and book" type. An entrance to the basement level of the west wing is located on the south corner of the west side and is approached by a short stairway covered with a lean-to glass door.

### Chimneys

Chimneys are located at each end of the two-story section and at the west end of the west wing. They are made of limestone rubble with ashlar quoins. The two taller ones are set slightly back (to the north) of the roof ridge-line.

#### Roof

The roofs of the main house, west wing and breezeway are basic gable types. The north additions have shed roofs. The attic has six-over-six-light double-hung windows in the east and west ends and two dormers facing south. These dormers were added after 1913 roughly centered over the second and fourth bays of the facade. A third dormer centered in the north side of the roof was added after 1913 but removed in 1940.

#### Decorative details

Cornices, bargeboards, window and door frames, and other moldings are all of the simplest wooden type. The south porch has six squared columns on the ground level, each with applied battens in imitation of fluting. The upper level, by contrast, has seven plain posts, of which only the end ones align with the columns below. The upper level has a plain wooden balustrade with squared balusters, but the lower level seems never to have been balustraded.

#### INTERIOR

#### Basement

There are four rooms in the basement. One is to the east of the stairway, under the living room, which was excavated after 1940. Another is west of the stairway, directly under the dining room, and is used as a furnace and utility room. Under the west wing is a room used as a study. Adjoining the study to the north, under the first-floor dressing room, is another room excavated after 1940 and used as a bedroom with an adjoining bathroom.

The basement study served as the kitchen throughout most of the 19the century, as is suggested by the large open stone-faced fireplace near the center of the west wall. The food is said to have been taken outdoors through the door in the southwest corner of the room and thence to the present northwest dressing room of

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the first floor, which served as a pantry and serving area. The walls of this portion of the basement remain the original stone rubble. The original bark-covered log beams which support the original first-floor planking in the furnace room and study are visible as part of the basement ceiling. All of the basement floors have been concreted. The fireplace has its original brick hearth. The ceiling height is consistent throughout, at a level of seven or eight feet. The floor is also of the same level throughout, with the exception of a one-step landing at the foot of the stairway.

### First Floor

The two main entrances open into a hallway from both the north breezeway and the south porch. The hallway is 19 feet 6 inches long, as are the living room (Room 3 in the HABS plan) which adjoins it to the east and the dining room (Room 2) which adjoins it to the west. These three rooms are a part of the frame house which was constructed by William L. Long in 1808. The master bedroom (Room 1), which adjoins the dining room to the west, and the dressing room (Room 4), which adjoins the master bedroom to the north, are a part of the original log structure constructed by William L. Long in the period 1796 to 1800. The kitchen and breakfast room, which adjoin the dining room to the north, were constructed in 1940 and later.

The floors are copies of the original pine planks which were joined by the tongue and groove method. The original planks still remain under the present flooring. The floor of the master bedroom is 6 to 8 inches above the other floors.

The ceilings are constructed of plaster and lath and were replastered in the 1940's. They are the original eight and a half feet in height, except for the living room ceiling, which has been dropped about one foot to conceal plumbing. The molding around the ceilings is original in part. Living room, dining room and master bedroom have wainscotting thirty inches in height. Corner posts protrude a few inches into the rooms. Most of the Millwork around the windows and doors is original.

The fireplaces are centered on end walls. They were bricked up during the 1850s to accommodate Franklin stoves and were reopened by the Wenzlick family before 1916. All of the fireplaces contain the original hearths, and the mantels are either originals or copies of the originals. The three first-floor fireplaces contain black-painted metal hoods to reduce the size of their openings. The mantels are classically designed with simple pilasters and friezes.

The staircase is located at the northwest corner of the hall. It faces north, away from the main entrance, and starts with a square landing step that may be approached either from the hallway or through a door from the dining room. The stairs are steep (9-inch risers vs. 8-inch treads) and preserve their original treads. The north doorway is located between the stairway and the wall of the

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living room. Under the main staircase is another descending to the basement. It was inserted after 1940 in a former closet space, utilizing the original closet door (facing the south front door). Until the installation of this stair, the only access to the basement was by way of the outside door in the west wing.

The living room is said to have been a guest room at one time and is traditionally the room in which Ulysses S. Grant proposed to Julia Dent. The dining room was probably the parlor before acquiring its present use in the late 19the century. The door leading to the stairway entrance in the northeast corner of the room has an old lock and latch moved there from the south front door.

The master bedroom served as the dining room when the kitchen was located directly below it. The adjoining dressing room, as previously mentioned, was a pantry and serving area.

### Second floor

The stairway leads into a hallway on the second floor directly above the first floor hallway. A door at its south end leads to the south porch. East and west doors are aligned with one another and lead into the bedrooms.

The west bedroom (HABS Room 1) is the same size as the dining room below it. A closet at the southeast corner protrudes into the hallway. The fireplace at the center of the west wall is smaller than those on the first floor and lacks a hood. Its mantel is composed of moldings similar to those used in the downstairs fireplaces but without the pilasters. The hearth is original.

The east side of the second floor is divided into two rooms; a bedroom (Room 2) 15 feet 4-1/2 inches deep by 13 feet 5 inches wide; and a narrower room to the north (Room 3), which is now a bathroom. Room 3 was in existence in 1940 in a slightly different configuration but may not go back to the origins of the house; the closet opening into Room 2 was installed sometime after 1900. The floor of the east bedroom was sagging 4 to 5 inches by 1940; this problem was resolved by placing new flooring over the old. The east fireplace matches the one in the west bedroom.

#### Attic

Another steep and narrow stairway leads to the attic. This stairway also contains the original treads, and leads to a door opening into the attic from the north side. The attic spans the area over the 1808 frame portion of the house and still contains the original tongue and groove flooring. The rafter beams are joined in mortise and tenon fashion and are joined together by the original carved wooden pegs. The outside sheeting is also still the original. Battens have been added to support the roofing. The attic is presently used as a storage area.

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### ALTERATIONS

Major alterations have been referred to above, most of which took place in 1940 at the time of the HABS survey and immediately afterward. At that time the owner acquired an elaborate machine shop to reproduce needed wooden parts (replacements and additions) as faithful to the originals as possible. Plumbing was introduced. The present breezeway replaced a small frame structure said to have been built about 1818 by Theodore Hunt as an office. HABS photos were made of this structure as it was dismantled.

Subsequent alterations include excavation of the basement space under the living room and expansion of the kitchen and breakfast room about four feet northward.

#### SITE

White Haven is in a heavily wooded suburban residential neighborhood. Its historical access to Gravois Creek and Grant Road has been interrupted since the 1870's by the infrequently used Carondelet and Kirkwood Branch of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, but an easily traversable crossing remains. Three trees on the thickly wooded site are said to have been gifts to ex-President and Mrs. Grant on their round-the-world tour of 1877-1879: The ginko northeast of the house from Japan and two lindens south of the house from Germany. One of the lindens succumbed during the winter of 1984-85.

Of the five outbuildings on the property, one, the caretaker's cottage, was originally built as a two-story structure after 1913 and was remodeled as one story following a fire in the late 1930's. It is white clapboard with black shutters and detailing similar to the main house.

At right angles to the north side of the main house and now connected to it by the breezeway, is a one-story stone structure measuring about 38 feet by 14 feet. Photos from the 1920's and 1940 show it as stone on the northeast side and vertical barn siding on the southwest and at the gables. Older descriptions, however, describe it as all stone, with large fireplaces. In 1928, the front wall was falling down, and shortly thereafter, the structure was roughly repaired for use as a shed. 5 After 1940, the structure was again modified for use as a garage, substituting garage doors where the wall had fallen and rebuilding the end fireplaces. Extending northeast and at right angles to the garage (parallel to the main house) is a frame, gable-roofed workshop. It is entered up several steps from the level of the garage and is three bays long (about 42 feet in all) and two bays wide. It dates from the remodeling. North of the house and across the drive sit two barn-red painted wooden structures on the edge of a steep incline. The eastern one is a simple rectangular gable-roofed, board-and-batten shed measuring about 14 feet by 15 feet. The other has a stone lower level built into the side of the hill. The wooden end of its gable roof accommodates a door at the level of the

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drive. A small square wooden cupola stands in the center of the roof edge and indicates the building's apparent function as a smokehouse. The interior space measures about thirteen feet by twenty feet.

The largest outbuilding is a large (55'x100') red barn at the low end of the property nearest the railroad tracks. It was originally located a few hundred yards southeast of its present site, at what is now the cul-de-sac of Fernald Drive, and was moved in the 1960's. At that time, it was given a new concrete foundation and floor and was recovered with wooden strips over plywood sheeting to simulate its original board and batten construction. It was built in the early 1870's by Ulysses Grant's employees as a stable for his thoroughbred horses. Although the stalls have been removed, the interior is still largely original, with the exception of an apartment built into one corner. The barn is constructed in wide bays, about 16 feet square, of oak posts and beams mortised and pinned with oak pegs, a building technique similar to that found in the attic of the main house.

#### CONDITION AND PRESENT STATUS

The longtime owner of White Haven, Delbert Wenzlick, died in 1979 shortly before his property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Since that time the house has remained vacant and has not been maintained in its previously excellent state of repair. Title to the property has been vested in a family corporation entitled U.S. Grant's White Haven, Inc.., and efforts have been made to sell the property either as a private residence (a prospect made unlikely by the high asking price) or as the site of more intensive development. The rezoning required for condominiums has been resisted by the county government so far, but other subdivision of the property under existing zoning is still possible. The threats to the continued existence of White Haven presented both by the deterioration of the historic buildings and by proposals for redevelopment have moved a group of interested citizens to form a general not-for-profit corporation called Save Grant's White Haven, Inc.. This group has received wide support in its current efforts to secure the long-term preservation of this historic property.

#### FOOTNOTES

- 1. Evidence of changes made in 1940 is found in the photos and drawings of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Other historic photos were generously provided by Delbert Wenzlick and family and are on file in the St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation.
- 2. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "Scenes of Grant's Courtship," December 3, 1916;
  Lloyd Lewis, Captain Sam Grant (Boston: Little, Brown, 1950) p. 340.
- 3. Globe-Democrat, "Scenes"; Ishbel Ross, The General's Wife (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.., 1959), p. 9.

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- 4. According to the Wenzlick family. Lending credence to this story is the fact that the Grants planted trees in Ueno Park in Tokyo, where a monument commemorates the event.
- 5. Globe-Democrat, "Scenes"; St. Louis Globe-Democrat Magazine, November 4, 1928.
- 6. Globe-Democrat, "Scenes"; St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "Where Grant Courted Julia Dent," August 13, 1899.
- 7. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, "A House Worth Saving," (editorial) January 6, 1985.

### 8. Significance

1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899	archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce	conservation	lawliteraturemilitarymusic	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
	communications	industry	X politics/government	transportation

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

White Haven is nationally significant because of its long and close association with Ulysses S. Grant. John Y. Simon, the executive director of the Ulysses S. Grant Association, describes its significance thus:

White Haven is the most important house within one hundred miles of St. Louis. There is no more important structure extant so intimately connected with the life of the general who won the Civil War and then served two terms in the White House. As a young officer, Grant courted his future wife in this house, and after his resignation from the U. S. Army in 1854 lived there for some time; in fact, he lived there much longer than he did in his Hardscrabble cabin. During the Civil War, he began to buy up portions of the Dent family estate that included White Haven as a site for his retirement. In addition to his desire to live as a gentleman farmer, he was also conscious of the sentimental attachments of the Dent home. In many respects, White Haven occupies the position in Grant's life that Aklington occupied in that of Robert E. Lee.

Indeed in the late nineteenth century, White Haven was likened to Mount Vernon, Monticello and The Hermitage as a national shrine. The fact that it has remained for so long in private hands and isolated from the public view has served to diminish its fame but not its significance, and its physical condition has been until recently excellent.

Bruce Catton and Allan Nevins in their prefaces to The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant cast oblique light on the significance of White Haven. Nevins writes that Grant

gained his place in the American pantheon not by intellectual power, not by brilliance, cleverness, or agile skill, and not by gifts of personality; he gained it by character . . . Even when his country men learned that his simplicity could be naivete', that his directness could be clumsiness in political stituations where fitnesse and tact were essential, and that reliance upon bad subordinates could be as harmful in government as in battle, their faith in his character remained.

That character, Catton asserts, was hammered into shape during the years before his great moment of opportunity. White Haven was central to those years; his heroism there, Nevins says, excelled that he had exhibited as a young officer at Monterey. The events of the 1850's were, in another phrase, "a succession of downs that all led him upward." White Haven is in another sense a monument to what many have called the finest feature of Grant's life, his marriage to Julia Dent.

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Grant's introduction to White Haven came through his West Point roommate Frederick Tracy Dent. After graduation both men were first stationed at Jefferson Barracks, overlooking the Mississippi south of St. Louis, where Grant reported September 30, 1843. White Haven, the Dent country estate, was less than five miles away, and as Grant later recalled he soon found his way there.

As I found the family congenial my visits became frequent. There were at home, besides the young men, two daughters, one a school miss of fifteen, the other a girl of eight or nine. There was still an older daughter of seventeen, who had been spending several years at boarding-school in St. Louis, but who, though through school, had not yet returned home. She was spending the winter in the city with connections, the family of Colonel John O'Fallon, well known in St. Louis. In February she returned to her country home. After that I do not know but my visits became more frequent; they certainly did become more enjoyable. 5

White Haven had been acquired in 1820 by Frederick Dent, the father of this family Grant described. Born in Cumberland, Maryland, in 1787, he had settled in 1814 at Pittsburgh, where he had married Ellen Bray Wrenshall. They came to St. Louis in 1818, where they had a townhouse at the southwest corner of Fourth and Cerre, a two-story semidetached structure in the Greek Revival style. Dent, called Colonel by courtesy although he had no military experience, had acquired such wealth as he had as a merchant, but he preferred to think of himself as a planter. He named his farm White Haven after a plantation in Maryland, one of several acquired by his great-grandfather before 1704. He ran White Haven in the Southern way with slave labor, even though the system was not profitable in Missouri, where it was in competition with free hired labor. Colonel Dent "loved to sit on the front porch in a rocking chair, smoking a long pipe and quoting the St. Louis Republican on politics." By contrast Ellen Wrenshall Dent "hated the country and this place especially," her daughter recalled.

The daughter who kept Grant returning to White Haven was of course Julia Dent, whose attitude toward the farm was much more like her father's. During her lifetime, William McFeely comments, she "turned White Haven in her imagination into a kind of Tara." Her "intensely romantic vision of the past" included memories of fishing, hunting ("It was no unusual sight to see from two to five wild deer bounding across the fields near our house"), horseback riding, excursions with her slaves ("We always had a dusky train of from eight to ten little colored girls of all hues") and the athletic exploits of her brothers which she observed from the front piazza. O Both she and Grant fondly recalled their spring together in 1844, when, he wrote, "we would often take walks, or go on horseback to visit the neighbors, until I became quite well acquainted in that vicinity." Early in May he obtained a 20-day leave to visit his parents in Ohio, but before leaving he

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sat on the piazza with Julia and asked her to wear his class ring. She refused. Later regretting her decision, she rode to Jefferson Barracks to find Grant already gone. While in Ohio, he learned that his regiment had been moved to Louisiana, where he would have to follow at the end of his leave. "I now discovered that I was exceedingly anxious to get back to Jefferson Barracks, and I understood the reason without explanation from anyone," he wrote. On his return May 22, he obtained another brief leave.

I immediately procured a horse and started for the country, taking no baggage with me, of course. There is an insignificant creek -- the Gravois -- between Jefferson Barracks and the place to which I was going, and at that day there was not a bridge over it from its source to its mouth. There is not water enough in the creek at ordinary stages to run a coffee mill and at low water there is none running whatever. On this occasion it had been raining heavily, and, when the creek was reached, I found the banks full to overflowing, and the current rapid. I looked at it a moment to consider what to do. One of my superstitions had always been when I started to go any where, or to do anything, not to turn back, or stop until the thing intended was accomplished. I have frequently started to go to places where I had never been and to which I did not know the way, depending upon making inquiries on the road, and if I got past the place without knowing it, instead of turning back, I would go on until a road was found turning in the right direction, take that, and come in by the other side. So I struck into the stream, and in an instant the horse was swimming and I being carried down by the current. I headed the horse towards the other bank and soon reached it, wet through and without other clothes on that side of the stream. I went on, however, to my destination and borrowed a dry suit from my -- future -- brother-in-law. We were not of the same size, but the clothes answered every purpose until I got more of my own.

Before I returned I mustered up courage to make known, in the most awkward manner imaginable, the discovery I had made on learning that the 4th infantry had been ordered away from Jefferson Barracks. The young lady afterwards admitted that she too, although until then she had never looked upon me other than as a visitor whose company was agreeable to her, had experienced a depression of spirits she could not account for when the regiment left. Before separating it was definitely understood that at a convenient time we would join our fortunes, and not let the removal of a regiment trouble us.

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William McFeely remarks that these recollections "reveal not only his ardor for Julia but a fundamental philosophy that goes far in explaining the Grant of Vicksburg and Petersburg and of Appomattox and the gaining of the presidency."  $^{14}$ 

Act three of the engagement drama was also set on the front porch of White Haven; time: April, 1845. War with Mexico seeming imminent, Grant had returned to St. Louis on leave. He rode up to White Haven just as the whole family was on the piazza seeing Col. Dent off to Washington on business. Grant had already sent him a letter requesting Julia's hand, but the old gentleman had refused to answer. Now, Julia recalled, "Father, being in a hurry to get off, consented." 15

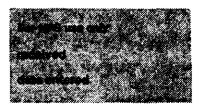
After this brief visit, Grant did not see Julia again for three years, but he wrote regularly about his experiences in the Mexican War, frequently closing, "give my love to all at White Haven." He returned in 1848, and the wedding took place at the Dent townhouse on August 22. James Barber has likened their relationship to that of "a man and his shadow on a sunny day. The two were virtually inseparable, and in perfect accord, although at times one would lead while the other followed. The limelight always shone on Ulysses, but Julia acted as an unwavering source of inspiration and stability that he turned to as a measure of his own actions." 16

Julia went along to Detroit and to Sacketts Harbor, New York, in the years immediately following the marriage. She returned to White Haven in 1850 for the birth of their son Frederick Dent Grant. Unable to go to the West Coast when Grant was stationed there in 1852, she went to his family in Bethel, Ohio, where their second son, Ulysses, Jr., (nicknamed Buck for the Buckeye State) was born. Later in the year she was back at White Haven, where she remained for two years while her husband was at Fort Vancouver and Fort Humboldt. At length, the pain of separation became too great, and Grant resigned from the army. William McFeely writes that

during the remaining peacetime years they were seldom separated, day or night, and during the war Julia joined Ulysses at his command headquarters on every possible occasion, spending more time with her husband than the wives of other generals did with theirs. While president, Grant rarely went on a political trip without his wife. And after he left the White House they did virtually everything together. Only exceptionally did the general leave her for holiday excursions with old friends. They needed each other, and if either needed the other more, it was Ulysses who needed Julia. Theirs was not a ledgerbook relationship of debits and credits owed by one and collected by the other. To a remarkable degree these two limited people became one. 17

Grant seems to have intended to settle near his father, but as usual that icy businessman struck no bargains. Julia's father, by contrast, was eager to have the

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Grants near him, so to White Haven they returned.

"I was now to commence, at the age of thirty-two, a new struggle for our support," Grant wrote in his memoirs. 18 Having expatiated on his courtship, he summarized the years after 1854 in a paragraph:

My wife had a farm near St. Louis, to which we went, but I had no means to stock it. A house had to be built also. I worked very hard, never losing a day because of bad weather, and accomplished the object in a moderate way. If nothing else could be done I would load a cord of wood on a wagon and take it to the city for sale. I managed to keep along very well until 1858, when I was attacked by fever and ague. I had suffered very severely and for a long time from this disease, while a boy in Ohio. It lasted now over a year, and while it did not keep me in the house, it did interfere greatly with the amount of work I was able to perform. In the fall of 1858 I sold out my stock, crops and farming utensils at auction, and gave up farming.

Others have called these years ones of "privation, menial pursuits, ignominy, limited prospects, and despondence." An indication of Grant's condition in this period is afforded by an incident recounted years later by a granddaughter of Frederick Dent's relation John O'Fallon:

General Grant was refused entrance at Col. O'Fallon's door by the colored butler, and Grandpa hearing the commotion went out and put his arm around Grant and brought him into dinner. He looked so shabby that the servant told him to go around to the back.  $^{20}$ 

On the other hand Grant and Julia seem not to have viewed those years as unfavorably as external circumstances might suggest. Julia wrote, "Ulysses was really very successful at farming . . . and I was a splendid farmer's wife." 21 Minerva Grimsley Blow, the daughter of one of Grant's earliest political supporters and wife of Congressman Henry T. Blow, recorded a meeting with Grant in the White House. "Do you recollect when I used to supply your husband with wood and pile it myself, and measure it, too, and go to his office for my pay?" he asked. "Oh, yes General, your face was familiar in those days." "Mrs. Blow, those were happy days; for I was doing the best I could to support my family." 22

During their first year at White Haven, the Grants lived at the main house. In the summer of 1855, however, they moved about a mile southwest to a second house on the Dent property, called Wish-ton-wish (Indian for whipoorwill), which Julia remembered as "a beautiful English villa." It had been built by Julia's brother

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Lewis (or Louis) who had left it for California. Ellen Wrenshall Grant, called Nellie, was born there on July 4. In the meantime Grant was working to clear the acres (some say 60, some 100) that Frederick Dent had set aside for Julia at the north end of the farm, over a mile away. It was this clearing that produced most of the cordwood Grant sold in the city and that was for many St. Louisans their most vivid memory of the prewar Grant. Horace Porter, in his memoir Campaigning with Grant, recounted a joke on the subject:

In discussing General Grant's popularity, [Benjamin F.] Butler remarked: "Grant first touched the popular chord when he gained his signal victory at Donelson." "No," said [Senator] Nesmith [of Oregon], who always went round with a huge joke concealed somewhere about his person; "I think he first touched the popular cord when he hauled wood from his farm and sold it at full measure in St. Louis.<sup>23</sup>

At Col. Dent's insistence, Julia claimed, Grant planned a log house. After much laborious preparation, it was finally erected in the late summer of 1856, and the Grants moved in during September, "before it was finished," Julia asserted. They named the place Hardscrabble. After Ellen Dent died on January 14, 1857, they moved back to White Haven to help the Colonel. The crops that year, the only good year of farming Grant had, included wheat, potatoes, oats, corn, sweet potatoes, melons and cabbages. Prices were hurt though, by the Panic of 1857, which effected the whole economy. By the end of the year Grant had to pawn his gold hunting watch and chain. 26

Jesse Root Grant was born February 6, 1858, at Hardscrabble he always claimed, but on March 21, Grant was writing to his sister, "You are aware I believe, that I have rented out my place and have taken Mr. Dents." Col. Dent had moved back to town. In addition to Grant's own illness, 1858 was plagued by a severe freeze that occurred on June 5, by Fred Grant contracting typhoid, and by illness among the slaves. 28

By October Grant had resolved to give up farming, and after a fruitless appeal to his father, he went into business with Harry Boggs, a cousin of Julia's. The firm of Grant & Boggs, which opened January 1, 1859, dealt in real estate and in rent and debt collection, difficult and distasteful work for a person of Grant's temperament. He boarded with Boggs until the spring, walking every weekend to White Haven, where Julia remained with the children. In April they joined him in a small house he rented at Seventh and Lynch in the Soulard neighborhood. That August, in a complicated transaction, they exchanged Hardscrabble's farm with Joseph W. White for a house and two lots at 1008 Barton Street. This agreement proved to be disastrous financially. White did not make payments on his mortgage, which caused the Grants to lose their house, and they were unable to eject him until 1867.<sup>29</sup> The firm was not prospering, and Grant was also disappointed by his failure to obtain the post of County Engineer, which would have paid him

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\$1,500. The two Democratic members of the County Court voted for him, but the three Free Soilers did not, associating him with his father-in-law's "rebel" politics. 30 Within another year Grant had given up on St. Louis and moved to Galena, Illinois, where his brothers had a leather business.

The outbreak of the war brought Grant back to Missouri. He wrote Julia from Wish-ton-wish on May 10, 1861, and although events in the next years took him farther south and then east, Julia was able to visit on several occasions. 31 White Haven, which Grant may have intended to put behind him when he left for Galena, was repeatedly called to mind. General Porter recalled an evening in 1864 when Grant confided his hopes for life after the war: "I am looking forward longingly to the time when we can end this war, and I can settle down on my St. Louis farm and raise horses. I love to train young colts, and I will invite you all to visit me and take a hand in the amusement. When old age comes on, and I get too feeble to move about, I expect to derive my chief pleasure from sitting in a big arm-chair in the center of a ring, -- a sort of training-course, -- holding a colt's leading line in my hand, and watching him run around the ring."32

In light of the many considerations that conspired to divert Grant from White Haven after the war, he came remarkably close to realizing this casually outlined goal. While other people were purchasing and equipping residences for him in Philadelphia, Galena, and Washington, D. C., he was using his own money to reassemble the White Haven estate, which had been distributed to the Dent children earlier in the decade by Frederick Dent. 33 In 1867 Grant recovered his Hardscrabble property, and by the following year he had acquired over 600 acres, a figure which was to rise to slightly over 1,000 by 1873, when Col. Dent died as a guest in the White House. 34 Every Saturday reported in 1871, "It is supposed to be the President's intention to retire to his farm when relieved of the cares of state."35 Surviving letters from Grant to his resident managers, first William Elrod (the husband of one of his cousins) and after 1873 Nat Carlin, were published in 1947 by LeRoy H. Fischer. 36 They demonstrate the intense personal interest Grant took in his new property, what William McFeely calls "the ardor of an absent squire eager to return."37 Grant envisioned the farm primarily as a place for raising cattle and horses, but he also planted oats, clover, hay and timothy for feed, and wheat when he was offered some experimental seed by the Department of Agriculture. He planted grapes until 1870, when he learned that the Concord variety he had concentrated on was not in favor for wine. The orchards near White Haven and Hardscrabble were kept up, and once Grant wrote for apple butter. He also mentioned hams. He took pains to improve his stock, particularly as this would enhance his potential profit. In cattle he favored Alderney and Dutch Belted breeds, and in horses American trotters. His knowledge of bloodlines apparently grew from 1868, when he wrote to Elrod: "Have all three of my mares put to a blooded horse. What one I leave entirely to your own judgment." By 1874 he was writing long explanations to Carlin about the ancestry and qualities of his stock, which included Young Hambletonian, "a superb chestnut stud," grandson of the famous

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trotter Hambletonian from Goshen, New York. "No affairs of men and nations commanded so thoroughly the attention of President Grant," McFeely writes.  $^{38}$ 

After his experience with White at Hardscrabble, Grant wanted no tenants and removed the one who had succeeded Col. Dent at White Haven. He also tore down all the old slave cabins. Elrod moved to White Haven from Wish-ton-wish, which burned down in 1873.<sup>39</sup> At one point Grant considered making a large addition to the main house for the hired hands. One new barn was erected in 1868, and another was spoken of in 1870; by 1888 the farm was said to have "a system of fine stables and barns." 40 The barn still standing on the grounds is probably one of these.

The St. Louis fairs held every October focused attention on farming, and White Haven was represented in many of the judging events. At the 1871 fair Grant's entries won four premiums. Grant visited St. Louis at least once a year, but for all his interest and enthusiasm, he was never able to make the farm pay. Finances were particularly strained in 1874 when he reported, "I have already paid out this year some \$12,000 on the farm and have not got the means to go further. When I go out in the spring, I may make arrangements to put the place on a good footing." But the St. Louis visit of April, 1875, was "largely consumed by the social comings and goings of a president." By July Grant was writing to his agent John Fenton Long (son of the original builder of White Haven) that he planned to sell the place either privately or at auction. In October Long discharged Carlin and sold the remaining stock and equipment.

Speculation has focused on Grant's reasons for this decision, which marked the end of his dream of a fine country seat with splendid horses. Certainly for a man without great personal wealth, the financial losses he sustained were cause enough for him to pull back. Political considerations may also have played a part. From the time of his own disappointment as an officer-seeker in St. Louis in 1859, Grant's regard for Missouri politics had been unflattering, although not inaccurate. He had seen the disorder of the Civil War years and the corruption of Reconstruction, when he said some Missouri counties were as bad as any portion of Georgia. 43 Grant's political aspirations had not diminished after two terms as president, and Missouri was not an ideal base for a Republican, certainly not in the way Illinois was, in particular not for Grant, since Carl Schurz, one of his most vocal opponents within the party, was there. Beyond the more general concerns of money and politics was the very specific taint of the Whiskey Ring, which had been centered in St. Louis, and from which investigations and indictments were discrediting many of the men whom Grant had most trusted. Of the ten old friends who had met him on his autumn visit in 1874, four were in prison within a year. 44 His own secretary Orville Babcock, who had accompanied him to St. Louis in April, 1875, was subsequently indicted and tried there. Doubts had been raised about Grant's brother Orvil, Julia's brother Lewis Dent, and even about their son Fred; questions were being asked about the president himself. LeRoy Fischer speculated that White Haven had become too closely associated in Grant's

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mind with deceitful and dishonest friends ever to be a place of peaceful retirement; Grant's discomfort may have gone deeper than that.

After the disappointing turn of events in 1875, Grant seems no longer to have considered White Haven as a potential residence. To Elihu Washburne he wrote from Paris in 1878, "I have enjoyed it all very much, but often feel homesick to get back. If I should go back now, however, I would have no home to go to. The next spring from Singapore he reiterated the sentiment: "I am both homesick and dread going home. I have no home but must establish one after I get back. I do not know where."45 On Christmas Day, 1879, he wrote to John Fenton Long, "If there seems to be a chance [next spring] to lease my farm in lots of from five to twenty acres -- to suit tenants -- for a period of about ten years, for Market Garden purposes, I will lease it out and hold the property for the benefit of my children. Otherwise, I shall sell as soon as I can realize anything like its value." following November, after his failure to obtain renomination for a third term as president, Grant told Long, "My mind is made up to sell all my Missouri property as soon as I can get a fair price." A year later he was still hoping for a sale, and by April of 1882, he was willing to sell cheap and give purchasers time. 40 Nevertheless, the property remained in his possession in 1884 when it became enmeshed in Grant's business dealings.

In the fall of 1881 Grant had found a new home, another house purchased for him by well-wishers, in New York City. There his son Ulysses S., Jr., called Buck, had formed a Wall Street brokerage with Ferdinand Ward. In 1883 the General was taken into the firm. Ward and a fourth partner, James D. Fish, were illegally pledging the same securities to more than one loan. On May 4, 1884, when financial disaster loomed, Ward appealed to Grant, and Grant, that same Sunday afternoon, obtained a personal loan of \$150,000 from William Henry Vanderbilt. Two days later the firm collapsed, and the money was never recovered. Ward fled the country and Fish went to jail. Grant insisted on repaying his debt, even though Vanderbilt offered a number of alternatives. Grant ultimately turned over all of his and his wife's real property (with the exception of the New York house), as well as a great deal of memorabilia. White Haven, with 646 acres, was among the largest assets in the transaction, valued at sixty thousand dollars. "When I signed this last deed," Julia recalled, "it well-nigh broke my heart." The deed, made out to Vanderbilt's agent William J. Van Arsdale, is dated April 15, 1885. Grant died on July 23.

#### Later History

In 1888, Vanderbilt's new agent Chauncy M. Depew sold White Haven to Luther H. Conn, a former Confederate captain under Morgan's command. A native of Kentucky, Conn had come in 1867 to St. Louis where he had made a fortune in mining and real estate. "Like all Southerners," the newspaper commented, "he appreciates the sentimental and the romantic, as well as possessing the Kentucky weakness for fine

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horses."<sup>50</sup> He renamed the place "Grantwood" and used it much as Grant had hoped to do himself. A few years later, Conn's biographer reported that "The possession of the early homestead of the great soldier is something in which he naturally takes great pride, and the American people, inclined to make of it a shrine like Mount Vernon, Monticello, or The Hermitage, are to be congratulated upon its having fallen into the hands of one so appreciative of its historic associations."<sup>51</sup> Julia and other members of the family visited there in 1894 and found that "the old Dent mansion and other valuable landmarks have been carefully preserved in their original state, a fact which is highly appreciated by Mrs. Grant."<sup>52</sup>

In 1903 the same year that Frederick Dent Grant visited White Haven, Conn sold the southwestern 217 acres of the estate to Adolphus Busch, the brewer. Busch established a palatial residence there, which he called "Grant's Farm." A few years later he acquired the Hardscrabble log house, which had been moved to Forest Park, and re-erected it on his own property, about a mile and a half south of its original location. This move, along with the name changes, contributed to popular confusion as to the historic identity of the two properties. 54

In 1905 Conn sold the fifteen acres surrounding his country house to a development company, which planned to build an amusement park there, capitalizing on the associations of the place and its location immediately adjacent to the station of the Carondelet and Kirkwood Branch of the Missouri Pacific Railroad. White Haven was saved from this fate by Albert Wenzlick, another St. Louis realtor, who purchased the property in 1913 along with 105 adjacent acres. Like Conn before him, Wenzlick used the main house during the summer and entertained visiting antiquarians there. He also continued the process of subdivision which resulted in the eventual reduction of the property to its present 9.65 acres. Albert Wenzlick died in 1937, and in 1940 his son Delbert decided to make White Haven his permanent home. He had the house and adjacent buildings recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey and then proceeded to make the repairs and alterations described by Section 7 above. Delbert Wenzlick died January 12, 1979. 56

#### Earlier History

White Haven is unusual among presidential properties in having had a distinguished history prior to its association with the president. This history has been described at some length in the original nomination of White Haven to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 but may be summarized here.

The present southwest wing of the house is in the French vertical log fashion, which suggests that it may have been built before the main house was erected in 1808, possibly even before the land was first granted by the Spanish colonial administration in 1796.57 The wing ranks as one of the oldest known buildings in the St. Louis Metropolitan area, and the main house is one of the most

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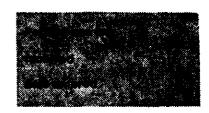
distinguished examples of pioneer architecture in the state. The first grantee was Hugh Graham, who exchanged this tract with James Mackay by 1799. Mackay (1759-1821 or 1823) was a Scotsman who served as deputy to the Spanish commandant under the name Jacques Mackay. 58 He married a daughter of Captain John Long of Virginia, who had recently settled in another part of the present St. Louis County. 39 The Longs moved to this neighborhood in 1807, and the following year John's son William Lindsay Long (1789-1849) married Elizabeth Sappington, the daughter of another local pioneer (three contemporary Sappington houses are listed in the National Register). William Lindsay Long had acquired this tract from his brother-in-law a short time previously, and he probably built the main house for his new bride. The Longs lived at White Haven for ten years, during which time several of their children were born, including John Fenton Long (1816-1888), the trusted friend of Grant. 60 Early in 1818 William Lindsay Long sold White Haven and moved a few miles southwest to the Meramec River, where he founded the town of Fenton, Missouri. About 1820 he moved back to the Gravois Creek area and built another house which is also listed in the National Register.

The buyers of White Haven were Theodore Hunt (1778 or 1780-1832) and his wife, the former Ann Lucas (1796-1879). He was a former naval captain and agent of the Astor Fur Company. She was the only daughter of Jean Baptiste Charles Lucas, who had come to St. Louis in 1805 as one of the three Commissioners for the Louisiana Territory and Judge for the Territory, appointed by Thomas Jefferson. The land he acquired included the heart of what later became the central business district as well as an enormous tract known as Normandy northwest of the city. Charles Lucas, the second of the five Lucas sons, was shot to death in September of 1817 in his notorious duel with Thomas Hart Benton, and Ann Lucas Hunt retired to White Haven "for fear she might chance to encounter Col. Benton in some of her walks." They remained two years. In her later years Ann Lucas became a philanthropist on a grand scale, donating nearly a million dollars to religious and humanitarian organizations. Of all the Lucas and Hunt family houses in St. Louis City and County, White Haven is the only known nineteenth-century survivor.

#### FOOTNOTES

- 1. Letter from John Y. Simon to Jim Charleton, National Park Service, June 11, 1985.
- 2. William Hyde and Howard L. Conard, eds.; Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis (New York, Louisville & St. Louis: Southern History Co., 1894), p. 466.
- 3. Ulysses S. Grant, The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant (Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illinois University, 1967), Vol. I, esp. pp. xvii, xix, xx.
- 4. James G. Barber, U. S. Grant: The Man and the Image (Washington, D. C.:

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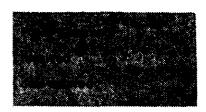
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National Portrait Gallery, 1985), p. 30.

- 5. Ulysses S. Grant, Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant (New York: Charles L. Webster & Co., 1885), p. 46.
- 6. The Dent townhouse was recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey (Mo.-31-2) but has since been demolished.
- 7. Gustave Anjou, The Grant-Dent Family (no publisher, no date [circa 1906], upaged.
- 8. Lloyd Lewis, Captain Sam Grant (Boston: Little, Brown, 1950), pp. 105, 121.
  According to Lewis, Dent had eighteen slaves, including 6 men, 5 women, and 7 children, as opposed to number of up to 80 sometimes cited.
- 9. Lewis, p. 103; Julia Dent Grant, The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1975), p. 43.
- 10. William S. McFeely, Grant (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1981), pp. 20-23; Julia Grant, pp. 35-36, 45.
- 11. U. S. Grant, Personal Memoirs, pp. 46-47.
- 12. Julia Grant, p. 49; McFeely, p. 24.
- 13. U. S. Grant, Personal Memoirs, pp. 49-50.
- 14. McFeely, pp. 24-25.
- 15. Quoted by Lewis, p. 122, apparently from Emma Dent Casey, "When Grant Went a Courtin'," typewritten MS, Missouri Historical Society. Julia Grant, p. 51, says that the subject of the engagement was not actually broached until Grant saw Col. Dent off in St. Louis.
- 16. Barber, p. 62.
- 17. McFeely, p. 59.
- 18. U. S. Grant, Personal Memoirs, p. 46.
- 19. Robert G. Ferris, ed., The Presidents (Washington, D. C.: United States Department of the Interior, 1976), p. 172.
- 20. Letter from Harriette L. Ely to Antoinette Harney Beauregard, April 13, 1929, O'Fallon Collection, Missouri Historical Society Col. John O'Fallon

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(1791-1865) was the nephew of explorer William Clark and one of the most prominent St. Louisans of his day. His wife, the former Caroline Schuts, was a Maryland cousin of Col. Dent.

- 21. Julia Grant, p. 77.
- 22. Hon. J. T. Headley, The Life and Travels of General Grant (Philadelphia: Hubbard Bros., 1879), p. 43.
- 23. General Horace Porter, Campaigning with Grant (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1961), p. 358.
- 24. Julia Grant, p. 79. John Y. Simon, "Grant at Hardscrabble," Missouri Historical Society. Bulletin, Vol. XXXV, No. 4 (July 1979), pp. 191-201, details this association.
- 25. U. S. Grant, <u>Papers</u>, Vol. I, pp. 338-339; earlier printed in <u>Letters of Ulysses S. Grant to his Father and his Youngest Sister 1857-78, edited by Jesse Grant Cramer (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1912), pp. 3-4.</u>
- 26. U. S. Grant, Papers, p. 339.
- 27. Jesse R. Grant, In the Days of My Father General Grant (New York: Harper & Bros., 1925), p. 9; letter from U. S. Grant, Jr., to Albert Wenzlick, October 8, 1926; U. S. Grant, Papers, pp. 340-341.
- 28. Lewis, p. 355.
- 29. This transaction is summarized by Simon, <u>Bulletin</u>, p. 200. A detailed history and photos of the Barton Street property were collected by Dr. William G. Swekosky and are deposited with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, 320 East Ripa, St. Louis. The Lynch house has been demolished and the Barton house drastically altered and enlarged.
- 30. Dr. William Taussig, "Personal Recollections of General Grant," Missouri Historical Society Publications, Vol. 2 (1903), p. 6.
- 31. U. S. Grant, Papers, Vol. II, p. 26.
- 32. Porter, p. 167.
- 33. The houses in Philadelphia and on I Street in Washington have been demolished. The house at Galena is a National Historic Landmark. A title abstract of the land owned by Grant was prepared by Joseph A. Weissenberg of Lawyers Title Company of Missouri for Delbert Wenzlick, April 28, 1971.

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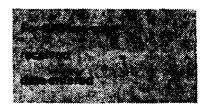
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- 34. In 1868 Frederick Dent's whole White Haven Farm was described as encompassing 862.07 acres (City Recorder of Deeds Book 365, page 402). A few pieces of this were not recovered by Grant, however, and Grant also bought additional tracts that had not belonged to Dent. Included in the 1,000 acres were 200 arpents in the Carondelet Commons, closer to Jefferson Barracks.
- 35. Ralph Keeler and A. R. Waud "St. Louis, A visit to the wine-cellars and President Grant's farm," Every Saturday, Vol. III (Nov. 25, 1871).
- 36. LeRoy H. Fischer, "Grant's Letters to His Missouri Farm Tenants," Agricultural History, Vol. 2 (1947), pp. 26-42. Some of these letters were printed earlier by Walter Barlow Stevens, Grant in St. Louis (St. Louis: The Franklin Club, 1916).
- 37. McFeely, p. 398.
- 38. Ibid, p. 399.
- 39. Simon, <u>Bulletin</u>, p. 198. The house was not rebuilt, contrary to Fischer's statement, p. 28.
- 40. "Grant's Farm Sold," June 22, 1888, clipping from unidentified newspaper, Ulysses S. Grant Papers, Missouri Historical Society.
- 41. McFeely, p. 399.
- 42. Letter from Ulysses S. Grant to John Fenton Long, July 13, 1875, John F. Long Papers, Missouri Historical Society.
- 43. Ulysses S. Grant, General Grant's Letters To a Friend (New York: T. Y. Crowell & Co., 1897), p. 72.
- 44. Stevens, pp. 109-110.
- 45. U. S. Grant, Letters To a Friend, pp. 85, 91.
- 46. Letters from U. S. Grant to John Fenton Long, Dec. 25, 1879; Nov. 12, 1880; Dec. 16, 1881. John F. Long Papers, Missouri Historical Society.
- 47. McFeely, p. 488. The house at 3 East Sixty-Sixth Street has been demolished.
- 48. Julia Grant, p. 161; see also Richard Goldhurst, <u>The Agony and the Triumph</u> Ulysses S. Grant (New York: Reader's Digest Press, 1975), pp. 3, 22-24.
- 49 St. Louis County Recorder of Deeds, Book 30, page 1.

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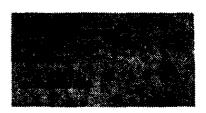
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- 50. "Grant's Farm Sold."
- 51. Hyde and Conard, p. 466.
- 52. Watchman; "Mrs. General Grant in St. Louis," May 18, 1894 (clipping in collection of Missouri Historical Society).
- 53. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "Scenes of Grant's Courtship," December 3, 1916.
- 54. Simon, Bulletin; James Louis Post, ed., Reminiscences by Personal Friends of General U. S. Grant and the History of Grant's Log Cabin (St. Louis: C. F. Blanke, no date [1904]). Hardscrabble is one of only two houses built by presidents doing the physical labor themselves, along with Millard Fillmore's in East Aurora, New York. Its peripatetic history and its even more frequent reconstruction, most recently in 1978, have rendered its significance marginal from the point of view of historic integrity.
- 55. Neva Adams Wasson, The Crestwood Story (Crestwood Area American Bicentennial Commission, no date [1976]), p. 11.
- 56. St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "Delbert S. Wenzlick rites held," January 16, 1979.
- 57. Typical examples of this method of construction are the Church of the Holy Family in Cahokia, Illinois, and the Louis Bolduc House in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, both National Historic Landmarks.
- 58. Thomas Scharf, <u>History of St. Louis City and County</u>, (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts and Co., 1883), p. 1880; Louis Houck, <u>A History of Missouri</u>, Vol. II (Chicago: R. R. Donnelley, 1908), p. 70.
- 59. Scharf, Vol. I, p. 579.
- 60. The United States Biographical Dictionary, Missouri Volume (New York: United States Biographical Publishing Company, 1978), pp. 98-99.
- 61. Frederick L. Billon, Annals of St. Louis, Vol. II (St. Louis: the author, 1888), p. 260; Missouri Historical Society. Bulletin; Vol. IV, no. 4 (July 1948), pp. 272-273.
- 62. Scharf, p. 1024; Houck, Vol. III, p. 41; Billon, Vol. II, pp. 213-215; Hyde and Conard, pp. 1315-1317.
- 63. Scharf, p. 341; see also pp. 1849-1853; Houck, Vol. III, pp. 77-79; Billon, Vol. II, pp. 215-216.

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Hyde and Conard, p. 1319; Scharf, p. 1413; St. Louis Globe-Democrat, "The Lucases-Hunts," September 5, 1934.

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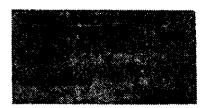
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- 4. Billon, Frederick L. Annals of St. Louis. St. Louis: The author, 1888.
- 5. Ferris, Robert G. The Presidents. Washington, D.C.: U. S. Department of the Interior, 1976.
- 6. Fischer, LeRoy H. "Grant's Letters to His Missouri Farm Tenants," Agricultural History, Vol. 2 (1947), pp. 26-42.
- 7. Frost, Lawrence A. <u>U. S. Grant Album</u>. Seattle: Superior Publishing Company, 1966.
- 8. Goldhurst, Richard. The Agony and the Triumph of Ulysses S. Grant. New York: Reader's Digest Press, 1975.
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- 13. The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant. Edited by John Y. Simon. Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illinois University, 1967-.
- 14. Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant. New York: Charles L. Webster & Co., 1885.
- 15. Grant, Ulysses S. 3rd. <u>Ulysses S. Grant Warrier and Statesman</u>. New York: William Morrow & Co., 1969.
- 16. "Grant's Farm Sold," June 22, 1888 (unidentified newspaper clipping, Ulysses S. Grant Papers, Missouri Historical Society).
- 17. Headley, Hon. J. T. The Life and Travels of General Grant. Philadelphia: Hubbard Bros., 1879.
- 18. Houck, Louis. A History of Missouri. Chicago: R. R. Donnelley, 1908.
- 19. Hyde, William, and Conard, Howard L., ed. <u>Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri</u>. New York, Louisville and St. Louis: The Southern History Co., 1899.

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- 20. Keeler, Ralph and Waud, A. R. "St. Louis. A visit to the wine-cellars and President Grant's farm," Every Saturday, Vol. III (Nov. 25, 1871).
- 21. Lewis, Lloyd. Captain Sam Grant. Boston: Little, Brown, 1950.
- 22. Long, John F. Papers. Missouri Historical Society.
- 23. McFeely, William S. Grant. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1981.
- 24. Missouri Historical Society. Bulletin, Vol. IV, No. 4, pp. 272-273.
- 25. Porter, General Horace. <u>Campaigning with Grant</u>. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1961.
- 26. Post, James Louis, ed. Reminiscences by Personal Friends of General U. S. Grant and the History of Grant's Log Cabin. St. Louis: C. F. Blanke, no date [1904].
- 27. Ross, Ishbel. The General's Wife. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1959.
- 28. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. "The Lucases-Hunts," September 5, 1934.
- 29. "Scenes of Grant's Courtship," December 3, 1916.
- 30. "Where Grant Courted Julia Dent," August 13, 1899.
- 31. Scharf, Thomas. <u>History of St. Louis City and County</u>. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts and Co., 1883.
- 32. Simon, John Y., "Grant at Hardscrabble," Missouri Historical Society. Bulletin, Vol. XXXV, No. 4 (July 1979), pp. 191-201.
- 33. Stevens, Walter Barlow. Grant in St. Louis. St. Louis: The Franklin Club, 1916.
- 34. Taussig, Dr. William. "Personal Recollections of General Grant," Missouri Historical Society Publications, Vol. 2 (1903).
- 35. Triboulet, Suzanne. "St. Louis' Famous Log Cabin," <u>St. Louis Globe -Democrat</u>, April 27, 1952.
- 36. The United States Biographical Dictionary, Missouri Volume. New York: United States Biographical Publishing Company, 1878.
- 37. Wasson, Neva Adams. <u>The Crestwood Story</u>. Crestwood Area American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, no date [1976].

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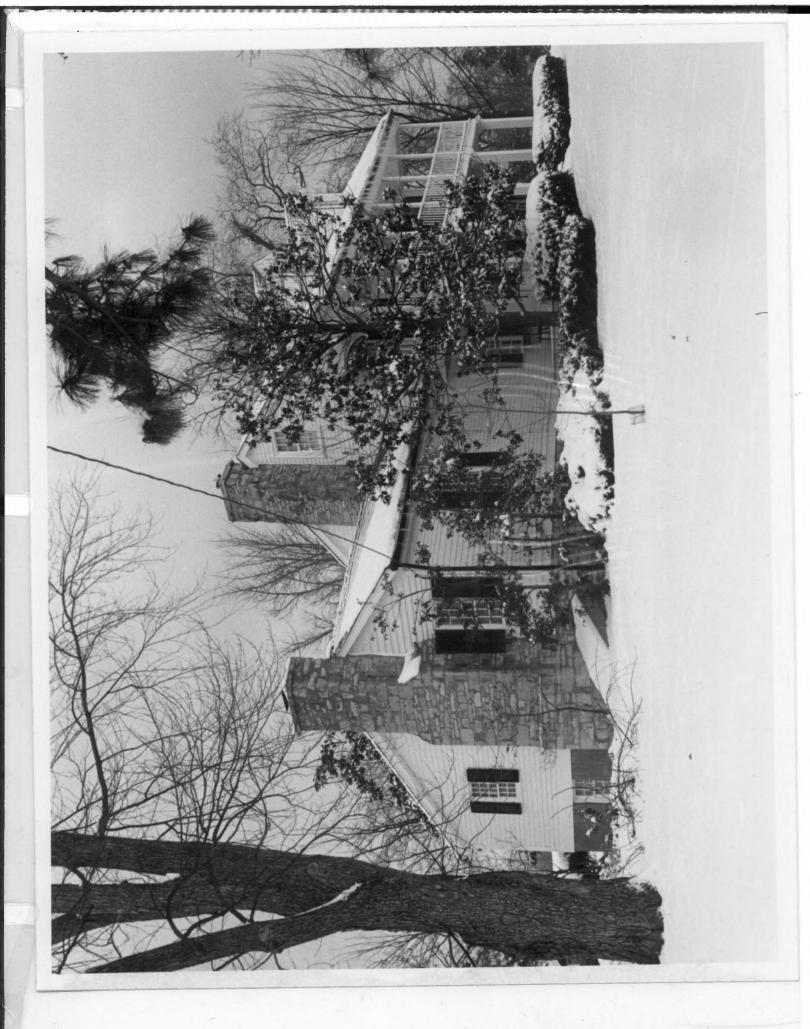
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by Forest Haven No. 3, as per plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 95, page 30 of the St. Louis County Recorder's Office; containing a total of approximately 10 acres.

9. M	lajor Bibli	ographica	l Refere	nces	
2. Bar Por	rber, James G. " rtrait Gallery,	1985.	e Man and The	<u>Image</u> . Washing	circa 1906 . gton, D.C.: National Magazine, September 3
195	<u></u>	nical Data			
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c [1 <sub>1</sub> 5] E [ ] G [ ]	3 7 0 6 7 0	4,2,7,0,1,3,0	D <u>1   5</u> F <u> </u>	3 7 0 8 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0	4 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> 7 <sub>1</sub> 0 <sub>1</sub> 2 <sub>1</sub> 9 <sub>1</sub> 0
Section Railroad	16, Township 46 1 Right of Way;	5 N, Range 6 E, b and on the south	eing bounded ceast by Fores	on the southwes t Haven No. 4,	rvey 9, and partly in t by Missouri Pacific Section 1, as per pla s; and on the northwe
List all s	tates and countie	s for properties over	lapping state or	county boundaries	i
state	Missouri	code 20	county St	. Louis	code 189
state		code	county	e	code
11.	Form Pre	pared By			
name/title	Esley Ham	ilton			
organizati	ion St. Louis Co	o. Dept. of Parks	& Recreation		985
street & n	umber 41 South	Central Avenue		(314) telephone 889-3	357
city or tov	wn Clayton			state Missouri	63105
12.	State His	toric Pres	ervation	Officer C	ertification
The evalu	lated significance of	this property within the	state is:		
	national	state	local		
665), I he according	reby nominate this pigg to the criteria and p	roperty for inclusion in rocedures set forth by	the National Regist	ler and certify that it I	
State Hist	toric Preservation Of	ticer signature		<u> </u>	
title				date	
	PS use only ereby certify that this	property is included in	the National Regis	ter	to the contract of the
Koon	er of the National Re	ngistar		date	
		:भाव <b>ा</b>			
Attes Chief	t: of Registration			date	

White Haven, St. Louis County, Missouri Photo credited to Esley Hamilton, Jan. 1979 Negative Filed at St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation. View of White Haven from South Photo no. one



White Haven, St. Louis County, Missouri
Photo credited to Esley Hamilton, Jan. 1979
Negative filed at St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation.
View of White Haven from East
Photo no. two



White Haven, St. Louis County, Missouri
Photo credited to Esley Hamilton, Jan. 1979
Negative filed at St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation.
View of White Haven front porch and front door
from Southeast
Photo no. three



White Haven, St. Louis County, Missouri
Photo credited to Esley Hamilton, Jan. 1979
Negative filed at St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation.
View of White Haven from Southwest
Photo no. four

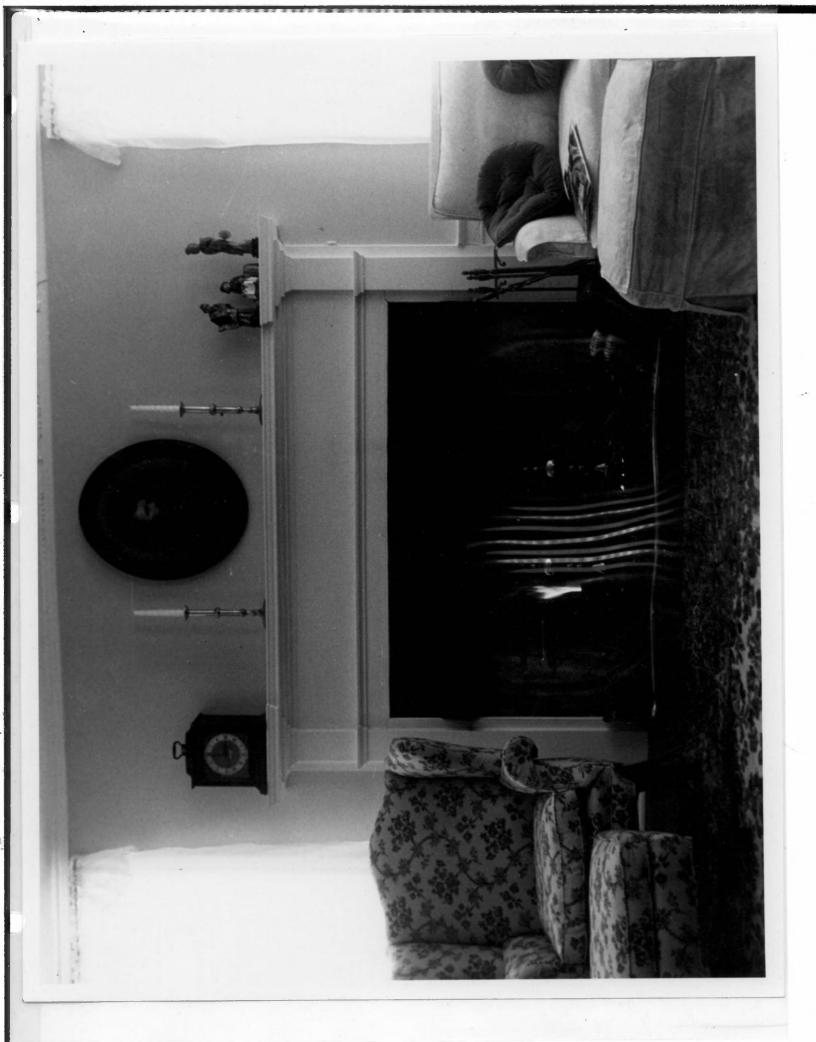


White Haven, St. Louis County, Missouri
Photo credited to Esley Hamilton, Jan. 1979
Negative filed at St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation.
View of Breezeway, former slave quarters
(garage) and workroom of White Haven
from East

Photo no. five



White Haven, St. Louis County, Missouri
Photo credited to Esley Hamilton, Jan. 1979
Negative filed at St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation.
View of Northeast wall of present living room
of White Haven
Photo no. six



White Haven, St. Louis County, Missouri
Photo credited to Esley Hamilton, Jan. 1979
Negative filed at St. Louis County Department
of Parks and Recreation.
View of smoke house and shed at White Haven
from East
Photo no. seven



EXTRA



